

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 ONY-00 /016 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS ONLY FROM SORENSON

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 14346 ACTION SECSTATE, INFO CIVIL
AERONAUTICS BOARD DATED 13 SEP 76.

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 14346

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS AND BILLER (EB/TCA) FROM
CAB CHAIRMAN ROBSON

PASS CAB ACTING CHAIRMAN O'MELIA AND MEMBERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: US-UK CIVAIR DISPUTE

1. TIME DID NOT ENABLE DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER WITH
BILLER BEFORE HIS EARLY DEPARTURE SATURDAY. I REFLECTED
ON UK CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL OF FRIDAY EVENING THAT UPON UK
ASSURANCE OF NO FURTHER UNILATERAL ACTION AGAINST US
CARRIERS, THE US TAKE NO COUNTER MEASURES AND PERMIT UK
UNILATERAL ACTION REGARDING WINTER SCHEDULES TO REMAIN
IN PLACE. MY OBSERVATIONS DURING MEETING WITH UK OFFI-
CIALS REINFORCES MY STRONG CONVICTION OF THE CORRECTNESS

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OF USG ITERAGENCY DECISION TO RETALIATE ABSENT WITH-

DRAWAL BY UK OF INTENTION TO IMPOSE UNACCEPTABLE WINTER SCHEDULES ON US CARRIERS. I URGE THAT USG MAINTAIN THIS AGREED COURSE. SOME IMPORTANT REASONS FOR FIRM US COUNTERMEASURES IF UK MAINTAINS ITS PRESENT POSITION INCLUDE:

(A) IT IS CRITICAL TO THE OUTCOME OF THE OVERALL NEGOTIATIONS FOR US TO ESTABLISH ITS WILL AND CREDIBILITY AND IT WILL STRENGTHEN OUR BARGAINING POSTURE IN A NEGOTIATION WHICH IS CLEARLY OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE AND INVOLVES HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.

(B) THE STRONG PUBLIC COMMENTS OF SECRETARY COLEMAN, DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON AND SECRETARY RICHARDSON, TOGETHER WITH THE FIRM VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE US DELEGATION SHOULD BE BACKED UP.

(C) JAPAN, ITALY AND OTHER MAJOR AVIATION PARTNERS ARE FOLLOWING THESE EVENTS CLOSELY TO MEASURE US RESOLVE AND GUIDE THEIR ACTIONS

2. PROMPT ACTION IS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW UP OUR STATEMENTS. US CARRIERS MUST MAKE OPERATIONAL DECISIONS ON SERVICES AT MIAMI AND CHICAGO WITHOUT DELAY. I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING:

(A) NOTIFY THE UK THAT US POSITION REMAINS THE SAME AND THAT CAB HAS DETERMINED TO ISSUE AN ORDER COMMENCING RETALIATORY STEPS. (FYI: FIRST STEP WOULD BE CAB ORDER REQUIRING UK CARRIERS TO FILE SCHEDULES WITH CAB PURSUANT TO PART 213 OF CAB REGULATIONS.)

(B) INFORM UK THAT, AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE CAB AGREED TO WITHHOLD PUBLIC RELEASE OF THE ORDER UNTIL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17.

3. THE FOREGOING REPRESENTS UNANIMOUS VIEW OF CAB MEMBERS OF US DELEGATION.

4. PLEASE KEEP ACTING CHAIRMAN O'MELIA AND ME INFORMED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF DEVELOPMENTS.

ARMSTRONG UNQTE: ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, AIR SCHEDULES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE225993
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: E:RASORENSEN:PB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760345-0496
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760966/aaaacedf.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-UK CIVIL DISPUTE
TAGS: EAIR, UK, US
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006